13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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[324] abortive fruits of *Theobroma cacao*, s'herbes balé, and the like) [303] to promote a luxuriant growth. The fanlike blades or « heads » [342] are used for thatch and the stems as thatching rods, screens, and [278] lattice doorways. The ashes of burnt leaves are mixed with the sap from stems of balisier (*Heliconia* spp.) and juicy pulp of the genip (*Genipa americana*), and then are rubbed on the bodies of those suffering from yaws (*framboesia*).

Specimen citation: 3197.

Paspalum laxum Lamarck, Tabl. Encycl. 1: 176. 1791.

Paspalum glabrum Poiret in Lam. Encycl. 5: 30. 1804.

Chien-Dent.

This is a common coastal grass to be found in sandy or rocky soils throughout the West Indies.

[854] Caribs place the whole plant in water which is then given as a drink to infants in order to hasten teething.

Specimen citation: 3309.

Saccharum officinarum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 54. 1753.

Idolor (from Spanish *caña*).

A native of southeast Asia cultivated in the tropics and subtropics of both hemispheres.

The growing of sugarcane was initiated in the West Indies early in the sixteenth century and the plant is now the most important product of many of the islands. Although unimportant in Dominica sufficient cane is grown to supply local demands.

[249] Patches of sugarcane are to be found in the Carib Reserve and nearly every hut has in its surrounding yard a primitive single-post-and-lever-type of cane press with which to express the [263] « vesou » or juice. The latter is used in place of refined sugar in cocoa, coffee, and for general cooking.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Vetiveria zizanioides (Linnaeus) Nash in Small, Fl. Southeast. U. S. 67. 1903.

Vetiveria arundinacea Griesbach, Fl. Br. W. I. 559. 1864.

Andropogon zizanioides Urban, Symb. Ant. 4: 79. 1903.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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A824 Varieties of this species are cultivated for their fruits throughout the warm and tropical regions of both hemispheres.

[263] The Island Caribs generally cultivate pepper plants near their houses. The fruits are utilized both as a relish and for seasoning sauces. It is also said that the expressed juice of the fruit (dropped [278] into the eyes) was used formerly in cases of ophthalmia. Pounded pepper leaves, mixed with shark oil, are employed in the making of poultices for wounds and sores.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Nicotiana tabacum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 180. 1753.

Tobacco, Tabac Pays. — *tété, téri* (w), *tétémèle* (m).

The tobacco plant, a native of tropical America is cultivated throughout the world.

[249] The Caribs grow this plant less today than formerly. Tobacco smoke is blown on ailing infants by midwives and other old women in order to make them well and strong. Tobacco juice is used as [278] an emetic, and was formerly drunk in dangerous quantities by [187] neophyte piai-men and candidates for chieftainship, both as a trial of endurance and «in order to see visions». Powdered to- [182] bacco [the leaves were dried near the hearth fire (?)] was burnt on the blade of a paddle as a propitiatory offering to the «Maitre Tête-Chien» (anthropomorphic chief of all tête-chiens, the local boa snake (*Constrictor orophias*) and other spirits. It was also [278] used as a narcotic (for pleasure) by placing a little powder or a dried piece of the leaf, together with wood ash and moistened with sea water, between the inner surface of the lip and the gum (?).

Specimen citation: 151 (T).

Solanum melongena Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 186. 1753.

Egg Plant. — Belongène.

The egg plant is apparently native to southern Asia, but was introduced early from Spain to America (21). It is now widely cultivated in all tropical and subtropical regions.

[262 Caribs grow this species for its fruits which they eat chiefly
252] in the boiled form. The plant is sometimes grafted on the weedy «batard belongène» (*Solanum torvum*).

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.